

Alberta Treasury

Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 18 TO SEPTEMBER 22, 2000

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month	Month'00/ Month'99	Comments
Canadian Composite Leading Index (1992=100)	August 164.8	0.4%	8.0%	The Canadian leading economic indicator increased by 0.4% in August. Five of the ten components experienced gains. The largest increases were seen in the TSE 300 stock price index (3.7%) and new durable orders (1.6%). The U.S. leading indicator remained unchanged (0.0%) after steady growth earlier in the year. The slow down in growth was due to a slower growth in the consumer sector.
Retail Sales (\$millions)	July			
Alberta	2,697	1.6%	9.6%	In July, Alberta retail sales increased by 1.6% from the previous month, while national retail sales were up 1.3%. From June 1999 to June of 2000, Alberta (9.6%) had the greatest increase in retail sales among the provinces. All of the ten provinces showed increases from the previous month. The furniture sector (2.0%) contributed the most to the increase of national sales.
Canada	23,328	1.3%	6.7%	
Wholesale Trade (\$millions)	July			
Alberta	3,194	4.1%	19.0%	In July, Alberta wholesale trade increased by 4.1% from June; national wholesale trade saw an increase of 0.6%. Increases were reported in the Northwest Territories (11.5%), Yukon (9.1%) and New Brunswick (2.3%). On a year-over-year basis, Alberta (19.0%) had the greatest increase in wholesale trade among provinces in July.
Canada	32,333	0.6%	8.1%	
Trade Balance	July			
Canada (\$millions)	4,192	-18.0%	56.6% ^a	From January to July of 2000, Canada's trade surplus was 56.6% higher than the same period last year. Export growth (-2.9%) fell from June due to lower exports of passenger vehicles, communications equipment and crude petroleum. Imports fell 0.4% mainly to declining imports of motor vehicle parts, industrial machinery and metal fabricated basic products.

^a Y.T.D. 2000 / Y.T.D. 1999